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<u>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</u>

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, on February 19, 1998.

Nancy McCoy

<u>PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT</u>

Please amend claims 1-5, 10, 16, 18, and 20-24 as follows:

1.   (once amended) A method for automatically evaluating a decisional rule containing a task and a condition which must be fulfilled before the task can be performed and for automatically performing the task when the condition is fulfilled comprising:

entering said decisional rule into computing means;

compiling said decisional rule to parse said condition;

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